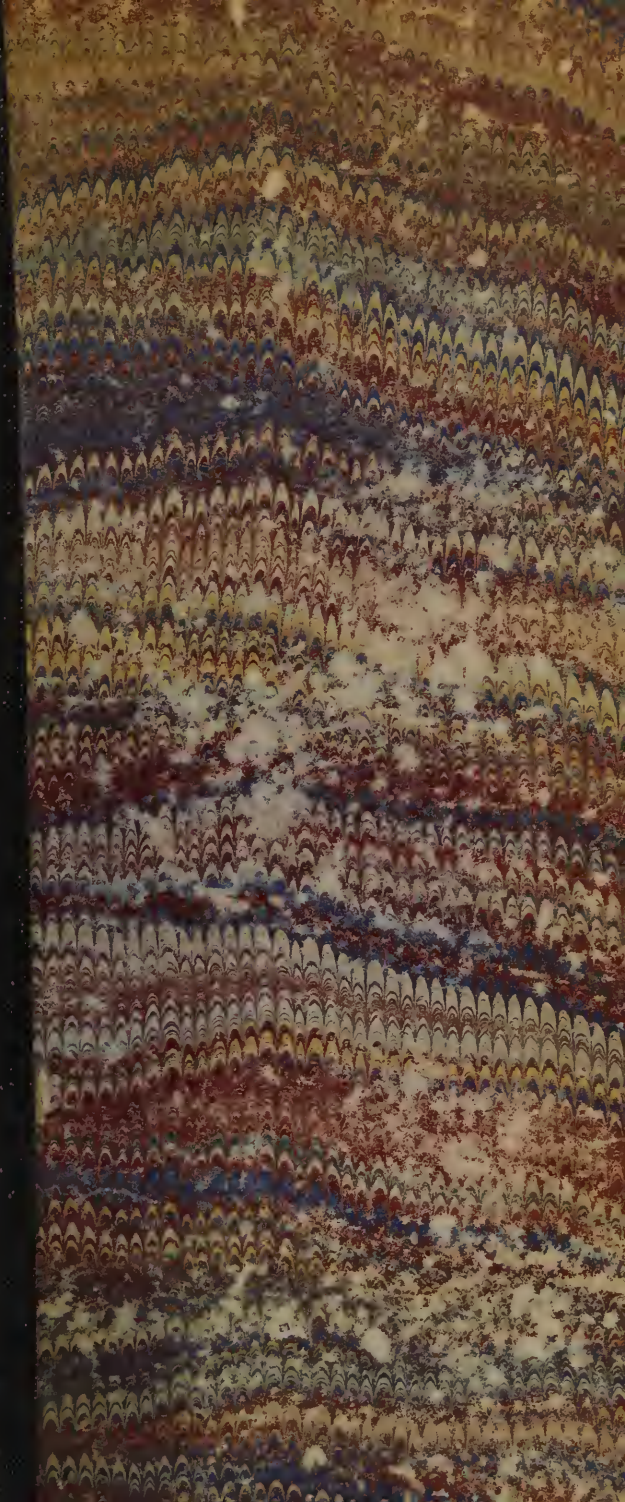


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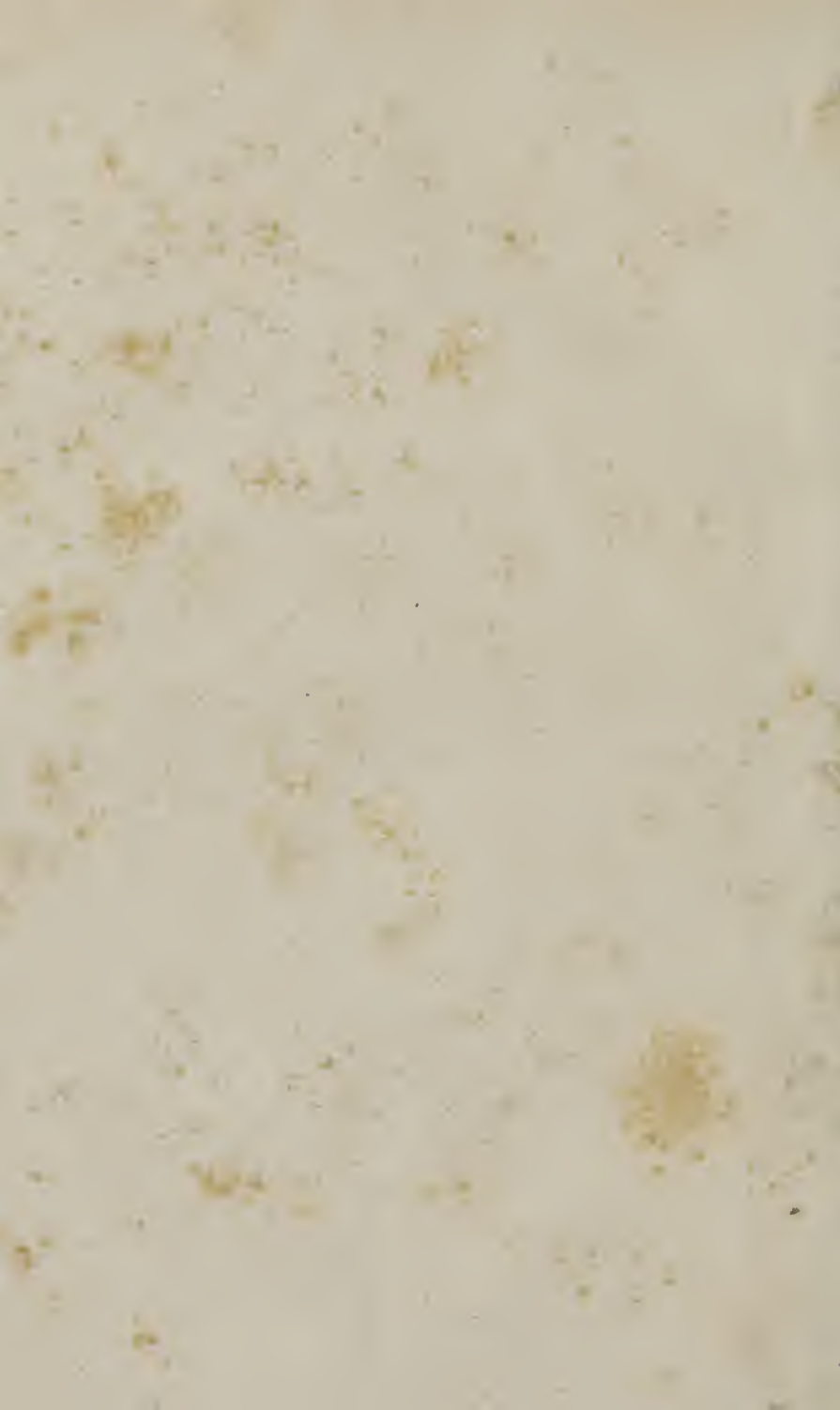




DUE

LAST DATE

AUG 16 1965



A MEMOIR

OF

THE LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF THE LATE

JOSEPH PARRISH, M. D.,

READ BEFORE

THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA,

OCTOBER 23d, 1840.

BY

GEORGE B. WOOD, M. D.

RECEIVED
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PHILADELPHIA:

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PRELIMINARY CORRESPONDENCE.

March 26th, 1840.

PROF. G. B. WOOD, M. D.

DEAR DOCTOR:

Permit me to ask your attention to the following Resolutions adopted at the late special meeting of the Philadelphia Medical Society.

"*Resolved*, That a member of this Society be requested to prepare and deliver, before this body, a biographical account of the deceased, in order that, although his present and living example has ceased from among us, some permanent memorials may be secured of a life which has been highly useful to the medical body, by a pure example of morals, by great attainments in medicine and surgery, and by a rare moderation, fit to be preserved, as the model of a wise, benevolent, and upright physician.

"*Resolved*, That DR. GEORGE B. WOOD be respectfully requested to prepare the memoir contemplated in the above Resolution."

In thus officially submitting the request of the Medical Society, may I venture to express the gratification which every one of us must feel, from a conviction of the certainty with which the whole object proposed in the former of the foregoing Resolutions, is destined to be attained by your acceptance of the call contained in the latter.

I am, with great respect,

EDWARD HARTSHORNE,

*Junior Recording Secretary
of the Philadelphia Medical Society.*

Philadelphia, March 30th, 1840.

DEAR SIR:

I have received your note informing me of the request of the Medical Society, that I should prepare and deliver, before that body, a biographical account of the late DR. JOSEPH PARRISH. The Society could not have conferred on me a more grateful honour than by this request, which I shall endeavour to comply with, in the hope that my affection for the deceased may, in some measure, supply the want of higher qualifications. Please present my respectful thanks to the Society, and believe me to be,

Respectfully,

Your friend,

GEORGE B. WOOD.

MR. EDWARD HARTSHORNE,

*Junior Recording Secretary
of the Philadelphia Medical Society.*

Philadelphia, November 7th, 1840.

DEAR SIR :

In pursuance of an appointment by the Philadelphia Medical Society, we have great pleasure in transmitting to you the following Resolution. In doing so permit us to express our feelings of personal obligation for the manner in which you discharged the trust reposed in you by the Society.

With great respect we have the honour to be your's, &c.,

CASPAR MORRIS,
GEORGE W. NORRIS,
HENRY BOND.

GEORGE B. WOOD, M. D.

"Resolved, That the Medical Society of Philadelphia has heard with great satisfaction the tribute to the memory of its late Senior Vice President, DR. JOSEPH PARRISH, prepared at its request by Professor Wood, and that Dr. Caspar Morris, J. W. Norris, and H. Bond, be appointed a Committee to communicate to Dr. Wood the thanks of the Society, and to request from him a copy for publication."

Philadelphia, November 9th, 1840.

GENTLEMEN:

In compliance with the request with which I have been honoured by the Medical Society, I shall be happy to furnish you with a copy of my address on the life and character of the late DR. JOSEPH PARRISH, which is entirely at the disposal of the Society.

Very respectfully, your's,

GEORGE B. WOOD.

DRS. CASPAR MORRIS,
GEORGE W. NORRIS, } *Committee.*
HENRY BOND,

MEMOIR.

THE office assigned me by the Medical Society of portraying the life and character of the late DR. JOSEPH PARRISH, is a trust most grateful to my feelings. To be appointed to speak of such a man before such an audience, is a mark of respect which no one could fail to value; but a still higher source of gratification, in the present instance, is the opportunity afforded me of giving utterance to those sentiments of esteem and warm affection which I ever cherished for the deceased, and which I still cherish for his memory.

I do not propose to enter into much minuteness of biographical detail. This is forbidden by the necessary brevity of an address like the present, and by the nature of the occasion, which calls less for a narrative of the ordinary incidents of life, than for the just representation of a medical character, pleasing by its beautiful traits, and useful as a rare pattern of what is most praiseworthy in our profession. The man, however, was in Dr. Parrish so intimately blended with the physician, his professional excel-

lencies flowed so directly from the qualities of his heart and intellect, that no portrait of his medical character would be recognised which should not also present the striking lineaments of his moral nature. In the following sketch, therefore, having offered some notices of his parentage, education, and general course of life, and especially such as may illustrate his character, or may appear to have had any influence in its formation, I shall endeavour to revive in your recollection his distinguishing moral and intellectual peculiarities, and then to trace those qualities as a physician and medical teacher which rendered him so extensively useful, and so highly esteemed in this community.

Dr. Parrish was descended from one of the early settlers of this country. His great-grandfather, John Parrish, who was a native of England, though of Dutch extraction, commanded a merchant vessel trading to the Chesapeake, and afterwards became surveyor-general of Maryland, where he took up considerable tracts of land, on a portion of which some of his descendents still reside. He perished in a storm by which he was suddenly overtaken while in a small boat on the Chesapeake, returning from a visit to a ship sailing up the Bay. The grandfather of the Doctor, also named John Parrish, died in possession of a landed estate, on which a part of the city of Baltimore now stands. This, however, was lost to his

family, though the title to it is said never to have been surrendered; and application was made, at a comparatively recent period, to the subject of the present memoir, to join in an effort for its recovery, with the assurance that there were good grounds to hope for a successful result. The determination of Dr. Parrish, on this occasion, was strikingly characteristic. He promptly declined the proposition, on the ground that no advantage which could accrue to himself or his family would counterbalance the uncertainty, inconvenience, and positive distress into which numerous individuals might be thrown by the agitation of the subject, who had honestly acquired their titles, and were now relying on them with undoubting confidence.

Isaac Parrish, the father of the Doctor, was one of a considerable family, who, upon the death of their mother, were left almost destitute, and were sent to Philadelphia, in compliance with her request, to be placed under the care of some near relatives of hers residing in this city. He had been intended by his parents for a physician; but the means for carrying their intention into effect were found to be wanting after their death; and he was placed as an apprentice with a very respectable hatter, whose daughter he afterwards married. Honest, frugal, and industrious, he succeeded well in his business, supporting and educating a numerous family, and retiring, in the

decline of life, upon a decent competence, with the respect of all who knew him. He was especially esteemed in the Society of Friends, of which he was a consistent member, and in which both he and his wife held highly respectable stations. The reward of a virtuous life has seldom been more happily exemplified than in the old age of this venerable couple. They lived sixty-six years together in unbroken harmony, and died within a short period of each other at a very advanced age. Their last years were cheered by the affectionate attentions of their few remaining children. They who enjoyed the familiar intimacy of Dr. Parrish cannot but vividly remember his beautiful deportment towards his aged parents. The youngest of eleven children of whom the greater part died early, he was their joy and consolation throughout life, in youth obedient, in manhood affectionate and attentive, and, when the weakness of old age came upon them, all that was tender and respectful; so that, when he finally closed the eyes of his venerable father, he could say with sincerity that he was not conscious of having ever offended him.

Dr. Parrish was born on the 2d of September, 1779. He received a good English education, and was taught Latin at the Friends' school in Fourth Street, at that time in considerable repute as a place of instruction in the learned languages. He afterwards paid some attention to French, and still later

in life to the Hebrew, which he cultivated exclusively in reference to the study of the Bible. He could not, however, be said to have a decided literary turn; and, though he took care to qualify himself well as a physician by a somewhat extensive course of medical reading, and, in the few leisure intervals of a very active life, occasionally perused works of general interest, yet he was indebted, as well for his professional skill as for his extensive knowledge of men and things, less to books than to an extraordinary faculty of observation, and a memory unusually tenacious of facts. He nevertheless always attached great importance to mental culture, and, in his last Will, while giving directions in relation to the education of his children, he expresses the sentiment, that he would rather a child of his should expend every cent of his inheritance in the acquisition of knowledge, than that he should arrive at maturity in possession of a large estate without the advantages of scientific attainment.

The moral and religious education of Dr. Parrish was of the most guarded kind. He was brought up in strict conformity with the principles and habits of the Society of Friends, and early in life received strong religious impressions, which preserved him in a remarkable degree from the temptations of a warm and lively temperament. From some notes which he left behind him, made about the commencement

of his medical studies, it appears that, even in youth, he was under the habitual guidance of that inward principle, in which the Friends recognise the Divine Spirit operating upon the mind, and the reality of which is one of the prominent points of their religious faith. Upon this subject I shall have occasion to speak more fully hereafter; as there was scarcely an important act or event of the life of Dr. Parrish which did not receive impulse or modification from his settled convictions in relation to this monitor within him; and to leave it out of view would be to present an imperfect if not an inaccurate picture of his character.

But while thus moral according to the strictest rules of his self-denying sect, he indulged freely in the innocent sports and recreations of boyhood, and was distinguished among his companions by his skill in various athletic exercises. He was a swift runner, a good swimmer, and an excellent skater. In the facility, grace, and rapidity of his movements upon the frozen surface of the Delaware, few if any of his contemporaries surpassed him. This accomplishment he carried with him into manhood; and it is related of him when in middle age, and in full reputation as a physician, that having occasion to make a professional visit, during winter, upon the opposite bank of the river, he accepted from a friend the loan of a pair of skates, and astonished the spectators by

some of those complicated and graceful evolutions which have now become almost an affair of tradition among us. His aversion to confinement and fondness for the free and fresh air never forsook him. Throughout the whole course of his life, he could not tolerate a close and heated apartment, slept always in summer with his windows up, and even during illness found a degree of coolness essential to his comfort which was almost hazardous to his attendants. There is no doubt that this personal predilection influenced greatly his course of practice; and long before the profession generally, in this place, were prepared to adopt the plan, he had introduced into the treatment of various diseases a system of exercise, exposure to cool air, and free indulgence in cool and refreshing drinks, which, to the great comfort of the patient and success of the physician, have at length, in many instances, superseded the old system of drugs, warm beverages, and confinement.

His youthful partialities were strongly directed towards the study of medicine; and those among his early friends who afterwards witnessed his extraordinary professional success, took pleasure in recalling many evidences which he had exhibited, even in boyhood, of a natural turn and natural qualifications for this pursuit. He was fond of reading upon the subject of diseases, exhibited an instinctive disposition to visit and nurse the sick, and, in the absence of other

modes of indulging his propensity towards the healing art, is said to have exercised his skill upon the inferior animals, and to have exhibited some dexterity in the treatment of their fractured limbs. The fears of his parents, however, were for sometime an obstacle to the gratification of his wishes in the choice of a profession. They were unwilling to expose the strictness of his religious principles, the purity of his morals, and the simplicity of his habits and feelings unnecessarily to the seductions of the world ; and entertained a belief, much more common at that time than at present among the Friends, that a strict observance of their peculiar views and customs as a sect, was incompatible with the various temptations to which the student of medicine was subjected. Respecting though not acquiescing in these parental fears, he surrendered his own wishes, and entered into the shop of his father with the view of qualifying himself for conducting the business of a hatter, rather, however, in a mercantile than a mechanical capacity. In the most brilliant period of his subsequent career, he never had the weakness to look back with regret upon the occupation of his early life, or the remotest wish to conceal it from others. On the contrary, he always entertained great respect for mechanical pursuits, and considered a descent from honest and worthy parents, however humble their station, as a juster ground of self-congratulation than the

highest splendour of ancestry without the accompaniment of virtue.

In this position he continued till his twenty-second year, when, as his own inclinations remained unaltered, and the objections of his parents had yielded to more mature reflection, and perhaps also to increased confidence in his stability, he felt himself at liberty to engage in the study of medicine, and accordingly entered as a private pupil into the office of Dr. Wistar, at that time Adjunct Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania. The advice and example of the late Dr. Samuel Powell Griffitts, who was in great esteem as a physician, and was at the same time a strict and conscientious Quaker, had considerable influence in bringing about this result. For this and numerous other friendly offices of that gentleman in promoting his professional interests, Dr. Parrish always entertained the most grateful feelings; and a friendship sprang up between them which was fruitful in mutual service, and continued without abatement till the death of Dr. Griffitts.

The mode of conducting medical education was in those times very different from that which now prevails in this city. Physicians supplied medicine as well as advice; and it was among the duties of the student to put up the prescriptions of his preceptor as they were brought to his office, and even to carry out the preparations himself in cases of peculiar ur-

gency. I have often heard Dr. Parrish speak of the errands on which he was despatched, by day and by night, over all parts of the town, conveying the messages of his preceptor, and distributing medicines among his patients. The student also not unfrequently visited the sick, nursing them, sitting up with them at night, and occasionally affording his advice upon emergencies when immediate access could not be had to the principal. In relation to his reading, he usually received some general directions from his preceptor, to whose library he had access; but was seldom subjected to a routine of study and close examinations such as are now common, and was therefore more or less deficient in that precision of elementary knowledge which characterizes the student of the present day. I am fully convinced that the plan of education which now prevails is the most efficient; as it ensures a good foundation upon which experience may subsequently build, and which, if wanting in the outset, is seldom afterwards obtained. But there were some advantages in the old mode, and among these were greater originality and independence of thinking, greater practical facility arising from frequent intercourse with disease, and a more thorough acquaintance with medicines and the modes of preparing them. The peculiarities of his education were to be traced in the subsequent course of Dr. Parrish; and to this origin we may ascribe the

strong bent of his mind towards practical observation and experience, in preference to abstract reasoning and theoretical disquisition in medicine. He certainly availed himself fully of all his advantages, and by his industry and close attention, as well as by a congenial goodness of heart and obligingness of disposition, succeeded in gaining the esteem and entire confidence of his preceptor, who loved him as a younger brother, and treated him throughout life with a kindness which gained in return his whole affections. Those of you who have listened to the medical lectures of Dr. Parrish, cannot but recollect how frequently and respectfully he quoted the sentiments of his old master, as he was wont to call him, and how unreservedly, on all occasions, he expressed his admiration of the character, and his grateful sense of the favours of that good and great physician.

He received his degree of Doctor of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania in June, 1805, having written an inaugural essay "Upon the influence of the passions in the production and cure of diseases," which was printed, in compliance with a rule of the University existing at the time. This essay exhibits the practical turn of his mind even at that early period, consisting chiefly of a collection of facts, gathered from various sources with no little industry. After his graduation, he spent a short time in the recreation of travel, and upon his return, about the

close of summer or beginning of autumn, entered upon the duties of his profession as resident physician in the Yellow Fever Hospital. It was under a most solemn sense of his responsibility that he thus commenced his professional career. He felt habitually that he was in the immediate presence of his Maker; and from his private notes it appears that, conscious of his own weakness, he constantly sought for aid from that gracious power, whose will he endeavoured to make the rule of his life, and before whose judgment-seat in his own breast he strove to bring up every proposed act for approval or rejection. With such feelings, it is superfluous to say that he distinguished himself in the Hospital by a devoted attention to the duties of his station; and his native benevolence co-operated with his sense of right in leading him to apply every alleviation in his power to the miseries by which he was surrounded.

The favourable impression made by his services in this situation, was afterwards increased by the publication of some experiments in relation to the poplar worm, which were of great effect in allaying a very singular panic at that time prevalent throughout the country. An individual was found dead in his bed, and a living worm along with him of that kind which frequents the Lombardy poplar, and is thence commonly called poplar worm. The public somewhat unphilosophically leaped to the conclusion

that the worm and the sudden death were in the relation of cause and effect. Rumour speedily collected numerous confirmatory observations; in the hot-bed of popular fear suspicions quickly ripened into facts; and the belief came to be very widely diffused that this species of worm was exceedingly venomous, and that a frightful death was lurking in every Lombardy poplar in the country. A war of extermination commenced both against the worm and the tree which sheltered it. The one was slaughtered without mercy, the other given everywhere to the axe and the flames; and our streets would soon have been left without shade but for the timely publication of the experiments alluded to, which conclusively proved that the worms were harmless, and the Lombardy poplar as guiltless of any noxious influence as it was of any extraordinary beauty.

But the event which, in the early career of our late friend, contributed most to make him favourably known to the public, was the delivery of a course of popular lectures on Chemistry, which he gave first in the winter of 1837-8, and repeated twice afterwards in successive years. Popular lectures on scientific subjects were then a novelty in Philadelphia. Their annunciation was much more calculated to attract attention, and a successful essay was much more striking and permanently influential than they would be at the present day, when the public has

become accustomed to such claims upon its attention, and one impression is so rapidly followed by another, that a lasting effect is seldom produced. Dr. Parrish knew how to mingle the agreeable most happily with the useful, and his aim was always as much as possible to unite the two. To be merely amusing was contrary both to his principles and his taste; but no one was better aware of the necessity of throwing about dry details the embellishments of happy illustration and a pleasing delivery; and, however strict in his religious opinions, he would have as little thought of denying to his subject whatever interest of this kind he could impart to it, as of stripping a vernal landscape of its leaves and flowers, or a summer shower of its rainbow. He endeavoured to give to his instructions a practical bearing upon the ordinary pursuits of life, mingled with the chemical details various physiological observations calculated to obviate the too natural tendency of the uninstructed to empiricism, and took advantage of the numerous opportunities offered by his subject to illustrate the wisdom and goodness of Providence, and to mingle lessons of piety with those of science. There is no doubt that he contributed by these lectures to awaken that spirit of popular instruction which has not since slumbered in our city; while he earned for himself a reputation highly advantageous in the prosecution of his professional views.

In the meantime he had been attending diligently to practice, and was acquiring, in the arduous labours of the Philadelphia Dispensary, that experience of disease which was necessary to confidence in himself, and to inspire confidence into those who might from other causes be disposed to favour him. He was chosen one of the physicians of the Institution in 1806, and continued to serve it zealously until the increase of his private business compelled him to withdraw. Upon his resignation in 1812, he received the thanks of the Managers "for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office for six years and a-half." In 1818, he was himself elected a Manager, and in 1835 was appointed one of the consulting physicians of the Institution; and the latter station was retained by him to the time of his death.

In October, 1808, about three years after he had commenced practice, having been so far successful as to feel justified in incurring the additional expenses of a family, he married a young lady from Burlington, the daughter of John Cox, one of the most respectable citizens of New Jersey, and then as at present a highly esteemed preacher in the Society of Friends. This connexion was in every way happy for Dr. Parrish. It threw an almost uninterrupted sunshine over the course of his domestic life, and surrounded him at its close with the consoling sympathies of a large and most affectionate family, whose

love and reverence he had earned by a cordial participation in their feelings, and an ever active yet well regulated interest in their welfare. His wife survived him, and he never had to mourn the loss of a child. Few men have been more exempt from the miseries which but too frequently invade the domestic circle, and few have better deserved such exemption.

There has, perhaps, been no example in Philadelphia of more rapid professional success than that which fell to the lot of Dr. Parrish. Various causes contributed to this result. Among them may be mentioned his fellowship with the Society of Friends, always favourably disposed towards their own members, and at that time capable of extending an effective patronage, as there were few physicians among them; and the countenance of Dr. Wistar, who, on frequent occasions, exhibited confidence in the skill of his former pupil, and took every opportunity of promoting his professional interests. But it was undoubtedly to his own qualifications and efforts that he was chiefly indebted. I shall have occasion, in the subsequent part of this memoir, to speak of those peculiarities of manner and of character by which he was so favourably distinguished, and which were so happily in harmony with his pursuit. They were powerfully instrumental to his success by inclining opinion favourably towards him, and thus giving full scope to the influence of his professional excellencies,

which might have escaped attention if wrapped in the garb of a repulsive manner, or have been neutralized in their effect if mingled with vicious propensities or opinions.

I have before noticed certain events in his life which had the effect of bringing him advantageously before the public. He had already acquired a large practice, and was growing rapidly in reputation, when, in the winter of 1812-13, the great typhus epidemic, which so long scourged this country, made its appearance in Philadelphia, and elevated him at once into the foremost rank of his profession. At its first appearance, this complaint was not fully understood. Physicians were not generally prepared to recognise a disease of debility associated with apparently violent inflammation, and were in the beginning too apt to overlook the tendency to prostration which lurked fatally beneath the show of excitement. The attention of Dr. Parrish had been strongly directed to the subject by the perusal of a treatise by Dr. North, who had seen much of the disease in New England, and who strenuously advocated the stimulant treatment. His aversion to theory in medicine left him open to the evidence of facts, however opposed to prevailing opinions; and he was quite prepared to encounter the disease by methods which had stood the test of experience, rather than by those which analogy alone would appear to indicate. The epi-

demie approached Philadelphia through New Jersey, and hung for a while over the opposite shore of the Delaware, before it burst upon our city. The inhabitants were alarmed by reports of a terrible disease in the town of Camden, which appeared to bid defiance to medicine. Dr. Parrish was called in to the aid of the physicians of the neighbourhood. At the period of his first visit, seven cases had occurred and all proved fatal. He was told that the disease was of an inflammatory nature, and had been treated by the lancet and other depletory measures. Its malignant aspect at once struck his attention. He saw through the veil of inflammation which it had thrown over its ghastly features, and beheld the deadly weakness beneath it. He advised an immediate abandonment of the lancet and the substitution of an actively stimulant treatment. The effects were most happy. Numbers now got well where before all had died. A disease supposed to be almost incurable was found to be, in the great majority of cases, under the control of medicine. The terrors of the first awful reports gave way before the happier intelligence which followed; and the newly inspired confidence was directed especially towards the author of the change. When the epidemic reached the city, Dr. Parrish found himself in the midst of an ample business; and the devotion which he paid to the sick, and the skill and success which marked his efforts, gave him a

place in the opinions and affections of his fellow-citizens which he did not lose when the immediate occasion ceased. His views of the disease and its treatment met with much opposition; and some decision of character was required to carry them into effect. On one occasion, a physician in attendance with him upon two cases of the disease in the same family, believing them to be highly inflammatory, strongly urged the employment of the lancet, and upon being resisted by Dr. Parrish, who felt convinced that the proposed remedy would be fatal, retired from attendance, leaving the whole responsibility with his colleague. The ground of difference was known, and the eyes of the whole neighbourhood were directed with intense expectation towards the result. "You cannot conceive," said Dr. Parrish in relating the circumstance to his pupils, "the anxiety I experienced." Happily, however, both patients recovered, and the event contributed to extend his reputation.

But his attention was not restricted to the practice of medicine exclusively. From the commencement of his professional life he had exhibited an inclination towards surgery, which he cultivated assiduously whenever opportunities were offered. Towards the close of the year 1806, he was elected surgeon to the Philadelphia Alms House, where he had an ample field for observation and experience, especially in that branch of the surgical art, always highest in his es-

teem, which aims at repairing injuries by a judicious employment of the resources of the system, and, so far from seeking occasion for painful or deforming operations, endeavours to render them unnecessary. His reputation as a surgeon was of slower growth, but scarcely less distinguished in the end than that which belonged to him as a medical practitioner. His skill in diagnosis and judgment in the choice of therapeutical measures were highly appreciated by his medical brethren, by whom he was constantly called into consultation, not only in Philadelphia, but also in the country for many miles around it. As an operator also he took rank with the most prominent surgeons of the city, and, at the period of life when his physical powers were at their height, was second only to Dr. Physick either in the number and magnitude of the operations which he performed, or in the extent of his reputation.

In addition to his station in the Alms House Infirmary, he was in the year 1816 elected Surgeon to the Pennsylvania Hospital as successor to Dr. Physick, and continued to discharge the duties of the two offices conjointly for about six years. His place in the Pennsylvania Hospital he continued to retain till 1829, when the state of his health, which was at that time feeble, and a disposition to relinquish the more fatiguing and severer offices of surgery to younger hands, induced him to withdraw entirely from pro-

fessional connexion with the public Institutions. He considered the decline of bodily strength in a surgeon as an intimation from nature that the period for active service was passed; and I have often heard him say, that the necessity of using spectacles was regarded by him as a call of duty to shun operations in which a jet of blood from a divided artery might occasion temporary blindness.

During the whole course of his service in the public hospitals, he was assiduous in the discharge of his duties, not considering the situation as one of mere personal advantage, but as involving higher obligations, and among these a watchful care over the interests of the Institution, and a strict attention to the comforts as well as the health of the inmates. I have never heard the breath of accusation against him in relation to the discharge of this high trust. It was in the Alms House Infirmary that he first attracted notice by his clinical lectures, and laid the foundation of that reputation as a medical teacher with which all who now hear me are familiar. In his regular rounds among the patients, both in this Institution and the Pennsylvania Hospital, he seldom omitted an opportunity of giving useful practical lessons to the students who attended him; and so attractive was his manner, so impressive his instructions, and so obvious the high motives by which he was actuated, that large numbers constantly followed him,

who afterwards carried home with them, into almost all parts of the Union, a great and affectionate respect for his virtues, talents, and attainments.

A natural consequence of his growing reputation as a practitioner and clinical lecturer was a great increase of private pupils. He was seldom without one or more students even from the commencement of his practice; but it was not till the year 1814 or 1815 that their number became considerable. From this period they rapidly increased, till they amounted at length to about thirty; a number at that time quite unprecedented in this country among physicians not immediately connected with the great medical schools, and equalled, I believe, only in one instance where this advantage was possessed by the teacher. Young men came to study with him from various parts of the Union; but the greater number were from Philadelphia and its immediate neighbourhood; and, as this was the place where he was best known, and no extraneous motives influenced the choice of the pupils, the fact speaks strongly in favour not only of his reputation but also of his real merits. Among the present practitioners of this city, there are, I presume, more of his former pupils, than of those educated by any other physician. He was in the habit of lecturing to the young gentlemen in his office twice a week during almost the whole year, in the winter upon surgery, and in the summer on the practice of

medicine; giving in his lectures not so much that elementary knowledge which is to be derived from books, as the result of his own experience and reflection.

About the year 1818, he was induced by the great increase of his pupils, and by his own almost oppressive engagements, to procure assistance in the instruction of his class, especially in those elementary branches of medicine which, though apt in their minutiae to escape the recollection of practitioners, are nevertheless indispensable to the student as the basis of all professional knowledge. The extent of this aid was gradually increased, till at length courses of lectures were delivered every year upon Chemistry, Anatomy, and Materia Medica, to which Midwifery was afterwards added; as he himself never cultivated this branch of our art, and did not feel himself competent to teach it. Besides lectures, a regular series of minute examinations upon all the different branches was also instituted; so that a complete system of private instruction sprung up under his hands, which, if not antecedent to others of a similar character, was certainly original with himself and those who assisted him. Dr. Parrish, therefore, may be looked upon as one of the founders of that combined and more thorough scheme of private medical tuition, which constitutes a distinguishing professional feature of our city and our times; and upon

this ground alone would have claims to a most favourable place in our recollections.*

He sustained this system of medical instruction, with a number of pupils varying from about ten to thirty, till the year 1830, when he yielded to the influence of an Institution conducted upon a plan somewhat similar to his own, but combining the talent and professional weight of some of the most prominent physicians of this city, of whom, moreover, several had the advantage of being connected with the most flourishing medical school in the country.

But his peculiar abilities as a lecturer were not yet lost to the medical community. An association of physicians was formed, called the "Philadelphia Association for Medical Instruction," at the head of which he allowed his name to be placed, and in which he continued to labour faithfully as long as it existed. The object of this association, as many of you well know, was not to compete with the public schools, but merely to afford to the private pupils of the members those advantages which were enjoyed by others,

* I have learned, since delivering the address, that the priority in the establishment of the combined system of private medical instruction alluded to in the text, belongs to Dr. Chapman, of the University of Pennsylvania. He associated Dr. Horner with him in the instruction of his private pupils in the year 1817; while the first step was not taken by Dr. Parrish till 1818, when he engaged my assistance. The statements, however, in the address are, I believe, literally correct; for, to the best of my knowledge, Dr. Parrish, at the time he commenced, was not aware that a similar arrangement had been made by any other individual.

and which it was not in the power of any one individual to bestow. It continued in successful operation for about six years, when it was dissolved in consequence chiefly of the advancing age of its main supporter, who began to feel that he had borne his share in the burthens of the day, and was justified in withdrawing from a portion at least of those labours, which, though they had not surpassed his energies or will in the prime of his life, began now to press heavily upon him.

Let us here pause, for a few minutes, to consider his position at that period when his mental and corporeal powers were in their greatest vigour, his reputation at its height, and all his faculties in the fullest exercise. Few individuals have held in this city a more enviable station. His professional business equalled his utmost wishes both in character and amount, lying chiefly among the most respectable inhabitants, and being scarcely short of his utmost physical capabilities. He was in the frequent receipt of letters from various parts of the Union requesting professional advice; persons often came from great distances on purpose to consult him in obscure and difficult cases; and such was his reputation out of the city, that his aid in consultation was habitually sought by numerous physicians in all directions around Philadelphia, and not unfrequently at such distances as to render compliance impossible. With his medical

brethren at home he was upon the most friendly footing, enjoying in a remarkable degree their respect and confidence, and constantly consulted by them when additional aid was required. When we recollect that to this great mass of private business there was added a regular attendance as surgeon in our two great public hospitals, and the delivery of two courses of lectures in each year to his private pupils, we shall be prepared to understand that his time was fully occupied in active duties, and that little opportunity was afforded him for relaxation or social enjoyment.

But, though occasionally oppressed with the weight of these various cares, he experienced that high gratification which always springs from the full exercise of our powers, when accompanied with the consciousness that they are properly directed, and often observed to his friends that he had never, on occasion of the severest trials, even for a moment repented that he had devoted himself to the profession of medicine. He was cheered, moreover, by the affectionate kindness which everywhere met him, and which was but a just return for that general benevolence with which his own breast overflowed. Almost universally known, he never appeared in the streets without meeting the grateful and cordial greeting of persons indebted to him for life, or health, or some other blessing; and in every sick chamber which he visited, his own bright smile was reflected from every countenance not over-

whelmed with anxiety or grief. Affection beamed cheerfully upon his daily round; and the kindnesses which he scattered like flowers along his path, returned in delicious fragrance to his own gratified sense. He enjoyed exceedingly those intervals of business in which he could unbend himself in the company of his family and friends; and the sweetness of his temper, the cheerfulness and naiveté of his manner, his fund of pleasing anecdote, and the goodness of heart which shone forth in all that he said and did, rendered him, on such occasions, the source of even greater gratification than he received. The social circle which habitually met at his house was, indeed, a happy one; and they who have mingled in it will often recall its calm and innocent, yet vivid enjoyments, with a sigh that they are passed and cannot return.

Though occupied as we have seen, Dr. Parrish found time to contribute various medical and surgical papers to the journals, all of which are characteristic of his practical turn of mind, and some highly valuable. They are contained chiefly in the *Eclectic Repository*, of which he was one of the editors, and in the *North American Medical and Surgical Journal*. Among them may be mentioned, as worthy of especial attention, "Observations on a peculiar catarrhal complaint in children," "On infantile convulsions arising from intestinal spasm," "On affections of the *mammæ*

liable to be mistaken for cancer," "On pulmonary consumption," and "On the connexion between external scrofula and pulmonary consumption." His remarks on the last mentioned disease are highly interesting, not only from their intrinsic value, but also from the fact, that his views in relation to its treatment were justified by the result in his own case. Attacked, when a young man, by a complaint of the chest which he believed to be of a consumptive character, instead of confining himself to his chamber, and going through a long course of medicine, as was then fatally common, he adopted the plan, which he always recommended to his patients, of vigorous exercise in the open air. Most of you recollect the unpretending vehicle in which he was accustomed to pay his daily professional visits. It was without springs, and its jolting movement over our rough pavements was anything but comfortable to its occupants. This, however, was its recommendation with the Doctor, who thus imitated, as nearly as possible, the effects of horseback exercise, and combined the pursuit of health with that of business. It is scarcely necessary for me to say that he entirely recovered from his pectoral affection. After his death, dissection revealed tuberculous cicatrices in the upper portion of each lung, and thus proved both the correctness of his diagnosis, and the efficacy of his plan of treatment. Were time allowed me, I might here expatiate with advantage

upon his opinions and practice in consumption, and in various other complaints; but this office must be deferred to another opportunity, if not to another hand. It will at present be sufficient to state, in addition, that he re-published Lawrence on Hernia with an Appendix, and, a few years before his death, put forth a work of his own upon Hernia and Diseases of the Urinary Organs.

In the midst of his private engagements, he participated largely in the proceedings of those medical associations whose constitution and objects he could cordially approve. He was long an active member of the College of Physicians, in which he held successively the offices of Secretary, Censor, and Vice-President, and in all whose transactions he took a lively interest. Of the Society, moreover, which I have the honour to address, he was a zealous member, and, at the time of life in which we are now considering him, was one of the most efficient speakers. They who are old enough to remember the highly animating scenes which took place in the Medical Society about twenty years since, cannot have forgotten the prominent share in the debates taken by Dr. Parrish, nor the life and vigour, yet perfect good nature and amiableness which characterized his style of speaking. His undaunted opposition to the assaults which the theory of Broussais was then making upon the old medical opinions, was fruitful in interest

and results. It was on one of these occasions that he brought before the Society the stomachs of recently slaughtered animals, to show that those post-mortem appearances which had been considered as proofs of pre-existing inflammation, were often present in cases of violent death, occurring in perfect health. He was for some time Vice-President of the Medical Society. That he did not hold a higher station was owing to an invincible repugnance, on his own part, to stand in the way of what might be considered the just or reasonable claims of others; and not only here but in all other places, he would accept of no office, the access to which must be over the disappointed hopes or wounded feelings of a medical brother.

But his sympathies were not confined within the limits of his profession. He took a lively interest in the concerns of the community in which he lived, and, whenever opportunity appeared to offer for useful interposition, was not slow in contributing his share either of advice, of personal service, or of money. He occasionally sent anonymous communications to the daily papers in relation to objects which he deemed it important to press upon the public attention, especially such as seemed to fall peculiarly within the province of the physician. Among these communications may be mentioned a series of essays published in the Village Record of West Chester, in this state, in which he endeavoured to point out to the

country people the various sources of miasmata existing in the decaying vegetation around them, as well as the best means of preventing the production of these miasmata, and of obviating their effects.

A strenuous advocate, on all occasions, for the rights of his fellow men, he suffered no motives of present convenience to prevent him from interfering by word and deed whenever he believed these rights to be invaded. The wrongs of the poor Indian were not unfrequently the subject of his pen; and his sympathy for the degraded negro was ever active, though preserved by his sound judgment within the bounds of propriety. Like all the members of his sect, an uncompromising opponent of slavery, he never hesitated to express his sentiments upon the subject, nor to yield his aid and counsel in individual cases. He was long a member, and ultimately President of the old Pennsylvania Abolition Society, in which office he had been preceded by Drs. Wistar, Rush, and Franklin; was one of a committee deputed by the yearly meeting of his religious associates, to lay their views and hopes in regard to slavery before Congress; and was selected by the eccentric John Randolph, when on his death-bed in Philadelphia, to be a witness of his last wishes in relation to his slaves, and, as a necessary consequence, to be the organ of these wishes before the Courts of Virginia. For the due performance of the offices thus imposed upon him, he

was peculiarly qualified; as, with the firmness which enabled him to adhere unswervingly to what he believed to be truth and justice, he combined a suavity of manner, a benevolence of feeling, an openness of character, and an obvious singleness of purpose, which disarmed hostility, and disposed even those who were most averse to his views, to admire and love him as a man.

The same benevolence which impelled him to the relief of the helpless and oppressed, caused him to incline to leniency in punishment; and, ever ready to forgive an injury to himself individually, he was prone also to forgiveness in his social capacity, at least was accustomed, in doubtful cases, to lean strongly to the side of mercy. He shared fully in that aversion to the taking of human life which is almost universal among the Friends, and carried on a newspaper controversy with a learned divine upon the subject of capital punishments, in which he endeavoured to show, by reference to the original Hebrew, that the Scriptural authority claimed for them was without foundation, while he maintained their inexpediency, and their contradiction to the whole tenor of Christian morals. In the cases of individuals on trial for crimes, or already convicted, he was disposed to give the most favourable interpretation to every equivocal point, and experienced the highest satisfaction when able, in his medical capacity, to screen suspected in-

nocence, or conscientiously to interpose between a sentence of doubtful justice and its execution. In the instance of the maniac Zimmerman, who was confined at Orwigsburg under sentence of death for killing his daughter, he was one of a committee of the College of Physicians, appointed at his own motion, to visit and examine the prisoner; and was thus instrumental in saving a fellow being from unmerited punishment, and the authorities from the guilt of a judicial murder.*

Nor was his attention restricted exclusively to se-

* The following anecdote is so strikingly illustrative of Dr. Parrish's mode of thinking and acting in criminal cases, that I cannot deny myself the satisfaction of inserting it here in the form of a note. A family consisting of numerous persons became suddenly ill, after partaking of a meal, and exhibited all the characteristic marks of poison. One of the family died, and dissection confirmed the evidence of the symptoms. Suspicion fell upon a female servant, whose character, upon investigation, did not turn out to be in her favour. Though no proof of her guilt existed, a strong disposition was evinced to implicate her in the crime. Such was the hostile feeling excited towards her, that the coroner's inquest which sat upon the case needed but the slightest countenance from the physicians to bring in a verdict against her. Dr. Parrish believed it to be his duty to shield her from any possible injustice. He and another medical gentleman who was in attendance, testified that both the woman and a child of hers were affected in the same manner with the rest of the family. It was urged in reply that she had feigned sickness, and had deceived the physicians. It suddenly occurred to Dr. Parrish that, in all the cases which he had examined, there was a white furred tongue. He stated this fact to the jury, and proposed that they should examine the tongues of all who had been affected. This was assented to, and a display of tongues was accordingly made. It was found that those of the woman and her child were at least as heavily furred as any of the others. The jury was satisfied, and refused to implicate her in their verdict. This, however, did not satisfy the family. Such a statement was made before a magistrate, that the poor woman was arrested and thrown into prison, where she remained several months awaiting her trial. Upon being brought before the grand jury, she was discharged, for want of testimony, on a verdict of ignoramus.

cular affairs. A zealous member of the church to which he belonged, and in which, towards the close of his life, he accepted the office of elder, he participated in all its business, entered with spirit into its controversies, and wrote much in relation to its interests and its tenets. It is well known, I presume, to all who hear me, that not many years since a division took place in the Society of Friends, and that Dr. Parrish took a decided part with that section of the society to which he attached himself. Yet, amid all the difficulties of the separation, when excitement too often counseled violent measures, he was uniformly the advocate of peace, and, in his writings, sedulously avoided that strain of bitterness which is so apt to infuse itself into theological controversies, and to leaven all truly religious feeling into its own evil nature. It was a source of comfort to him, that most of his nearest relatives and friends were of the same mode of thinking with himself; and that even with such of them as could not coincide with him in sentiment, he yet succeeded in maintaining an uninterrupted harmony of feeling, springing out of a just mutual appreciation of character and worth.

Such as I have endeavoured to represent them were the various engagements which crowded the time of Dr. Parrish, at the period of his greatest activity. As he advanced in years, the burthen which had sat lightly upon his vigorous manhood began to become

oppressive; and, as he was in possession of a fortune amply competent to his wants, he endeavoured gradually to withdraw from the more onerous duties of his profession, and to confine his attention chiefly to cases in which active exertion was less required than the judgment and skill resulting from experience. He could not, however, without doing too great violence to his feelings, abruptly break off from attendance upon those who had long entrusted their lives to his care. I have more than once heard him quote, as in some measure applicable to himself, a complaint made by Dr. Wistar, when desirous of declining business, yet unable to resist the solicitations of his old patients, that what had in early life constituted his highest hope, was now become his greatest source of discomfort. He succeeded, however, in gradually transferring the most laborious part of his business to younger and more willing shoulders. He first resigned his station in the hospitals, then withdrew by degrees from operative surgery, and finally limited his professional occupation to attendance upon families who had long employed him, to the performance of a few favourite surgical operations, such as those for cataract, strangulated hernia, and diseases of the urinary passages, and to consultations with his brother practitioners, which were always grateful to him, and continued to be numerous up to the time of his last illness.

There was a short period after he had begun to contract his business, during which he again put forth all his energies, and laboured with the spirit and activity of youth. This was during the prevalence of the epidemic cholera in Philadelphia. At the approach of this disease he felt like the veteran warrior, who, while resting upon his laurels, hears the distant sounds of invasion, and rushes once more eagerly to the contest. He was one of the most efficient members of the Sanitary Committee, took an active share in the organization of the hospitals, and exerted his influence effectively in calming the fears and overcoming the prejudices of the citizens, which threatened materially to interfere with the requisite arrangements. He had himself the special charge of a hospital, in which he spent much time in a close observation of the disease, in prescribing and even administering to the sick, and in providing in every possible way for their comfort as well as restoration to health. Believing that a cheerful and confident state of mind contributed much to recovery, he endeavoured to remove from around the patients, as far as circumstances would permit, everything of a depressing or alarming character, and among other means of producing a pleasing effect, procured a number of beautiful plants, which he distributed about the entrance of the hospital, and in the open grounds in the rear. He was at the same time largely engaged with

private patients and in consultations; and answered numerous letters addressed to him by his former pupils and other practitioners seeking for advice, so that his opinions were widely diffused, and gave a tone to the practice in many places. But when the danger was over, and the health of the city, purified by the late storm, became sounder even than in former years, he felt himself justified in returning to his previous purpose.

His life, however, was at no time a life of idleness. Few things were more abhorrent to his nature than mental inactivity; and, in his last illness, he considered as among his greatest trials that debility of mind which he felt to be stealing over him, a few days before his close. Even in the intervals of business, his intellect was ever active. He has often told me, that many of his peculiar views, both professional and otherwise, were the result of reflection during his solitary rides from house to house in pursuit of his business. His last years, therefore, though less cumbered by almost overwhelming engagements than those of his earlier life, were still fully and profitably occupied. Besides attending to his restricted practice, to his duties as the father of a large family and a prominent member of his church, and to the care of a not inconsiderable estate, he participated also in various public concerns of a useful or charitable character. He was especially active in the organization

and subsequent management of the Wills' Hospital for the lame and blind; and was President of the Board of Managers in this Institution from its commencement to the time of his death. One of his prominent enjoyments, in his declining years, was the superintendence of arrangements for the setting-out in life of his adult children, in whose hopes and efforts he largely participated, and in whom he used to observe that he was living over again his own younger days.

Having now followed the current of his life till near its termination, let us endeavour to sketch his peculiar mental lineaments, and form a portrait of his character while still fresh in our memory.

Of the moral attributes of Dr. Parrish, which he derived from nature, the two most prominent were, probably, love for his fellow men and a desire to stand well in their opinions. His preceptor, Dr. Wistar, who loved and esteemed him highly, used to say, that he had the ambition of Buonaparte and the benevolence of Howard. In the best sense of the word, he was undoubtedly ambitious. It is true that he never sought for power, and was altogether indifferent to the distinction of office, unless in so far as it evinced the good opinion of those by whom the office was conferred. But no man was more desirous than he to stand high in the esteem of others, and none felt more keenly, marks of respect and affection on the one hand, or of disrespect and ill-will on the other.

Of this trait in his character he was himself fully aware; and we find him in early life, when under strong religious impressions, struggling in secret against its tendencies. Among his private notes is the following reference to himself, at a time when he was endeavouring to bring himself more completely under the influence of that inward light, in the supernatural origin of which he believed as firmly as in his own existence. "Thou hast certainly been at times divinely illuminated; but alas! the cares of this world, not its riches so much as its honours, how does a desire after them eclipse the Heavenly luminary." He was never unwilling to admit the existence of this love of distinction. It constituted, indeed, one of his most powerful impulses to action; and in his case, as it will prove to be in that of every other person who may possess and be able to regulate it, was a principle of usefulness both to himself and others. If, under any circumstances, it exceeded the proper bounds in the case of Dr. Parrish, it was by the pain which it occasioned him when he met with unkind or unjust treatment, or was at any time made the subject of injurious report. He could not, perhaps, sufficiently, and he certainly never pretended to despise unmerited censure. But, though he suffered from this cause, he never allowed it to influence his actions, and few have ever been more ready to forgive an injury, or to return good for evil.

But benevolence was a still more striking trait in his character. His good-will to all around him was observable in almost every movement. Towards those in suffering it was peculiarly conspicuous. Hence the charm of his deportment in the sick chamber. Nothing could surpass the beautiful kindness of his manner towards the sick poor whom he attended. He spoke to them in the most friendly tones, soothed their anxieties, respected their innocent prejudices, and, in his rounds in the hospitals, uniformly had regard to their feelings, avoiding, in his clinical remarks, whatever could wound their sensibility, or excite needless alarm. They who have walked the hospitals with him must recollect how the countenances of the patients were lighted up at his approach, as if they viewed in him not only their physician but their friend. He used to relate frequent instances of their grateful remembrance of his kindness, and never joined in that very common complaint of the ingratitude of the poor for medical services—an ingratitude often resulting from a coldness or harshness of manner on the part of the physician, which leaves the impression that the service was performed merely as a matter of duty, and could claim only a corresponding reward. The practice of operative surgery occasioned him often great distress, especially in children, upon whom he never inflicted pain without appearing to suffer it in his own person; and operations in in-

fantile cases became at length so distasteful to him, that he avoided them whenever he could do so with propriety.

Nor was the benevolence of Dr. Parrish merely of a passive character. It was, on the contrary, highly practical. Not only was he liberal with his purse on every suitable occasion, which is the easiest mode of charity to one who possesses the means, but contributed freely also his time and service both professionally and otherwise. No physician in Philadelphia, I presume, has attended more patients gratuitously than Dr. Parrish. He was peculiarly cautious not to burthen the slender means of those who, from comfortable or affluent circumstances, had been brought into comparative poverty, and were struggling on reduced incomes to sustain a decent appearance in the world. When he had reason to suspect that any of his patients were in this condition, he would often endeavour to satisfy himself of the truth by the most delicate means in his power, and would then contrive, in the manner least offensive to their feelings, to avoid receiving compensation for his services, without leaving behind an oppressive sense of obligation. He never, on any occasion, exacted payment of a medical fee; and so strong was his aversion to compulsory modes of collecting debts of this nature, that in his Will he expressly and strictly enjoins on his executors to put no claim on account of medical services into legal suit.

He made it a point not to charge for attendance in cases of injury received by firemen in the discharge of their duty. For at least twenty years, he was in the daily habit of receiving patients at a certain hour; and, as he was well known never to refuse advice, and never to charge those who could not afford to pay him, crowds flocked to his house, which, on such occasions, often resembled a public Dispensary rather than a private dwelling.*

His conscientiousness was not inferior to his benevolence, and the two often co-operated to the same end. Hence it was that cruelty, oppression, and every form of injustice were so abhorrent to his nature. Almost the only occasions upon which I have seen him really indignant, were those in which he conceived the rights of the weak to be invaded by the strong, or injuries inflicted where there was no power of resistance or redress. Perhaps his sensitiveness on this point, may sometimes have led him into misapprehension of the motives of others, and a little temporary injustice of opinion; but this was a very

* The following anecdote, which was told me by an eye-witness, proves that his benevolence of character, though it may have been improved by cultivation, was innate. The event occurred, if I remember rightly, when he was a boy about ten years old. Meeting a young child in the street, during winter, who was carrying something in his naked hands and crying bitterly, he put his arms about the little fellow's neck, and finding, upon inquiry, that he was suffering from the cold, took his aching hands in his own, and having warmed them, put upon them a pair of woollen gloves which he had with him, and sent him forward comforted on his errand.

slight and scarcely sensible counterpoise to the amount of generous feeling which was called forth. The same feeling was extended towards the brute creation. The animals which he had occasion to use, were always treated with the greatest kindness; and the provision made in his Will for the old age of a favourite horse which had served him long and faithfully, is generally known. Old Lyon was a remarkable brute, and almost as well known in Philadelphia as his master. The dog-like docility with which he followed at the word of the Doctor, and the sagacity with which, when left to himself, he moved off with the vehicle to some shady spot in summer, or to some sheltered position in winter, were subjects of almost universal remark.

In all his pecuniary transactions, Dr. Parrish was scrupulously just. He did not feel himself authorized to take advantage of another in a bargain, and never incurred any responsibility which he was not fully able to meet. He had insurmountable objections to endorsements, on the score of the temptations which their facility afforded to extravagant risk, and would never lend his name in this way to his nearest friend or relative, preferring a direct loan of the money, if in his power, to the loan of his credit.

His conscientiousness was exhibited also in various other ways. All those who have studied with him must vividly remember the catalogue of evils, incident

to the study and practice of medicine, called by him his "black list," which he held up to the view of young men upon their first application to him as their preceptor, so that they might not enter the profession with false views and expectations, or at least that no blame might be imputable to himself for undue encouragement, should their expectations be disappointed.

In his medical lectures he felt himself bound, in detailing his experience, not to conceal his mistakes, so that the pupil might have the benefit not only of his successes as an example, but also of his mis-steps as a warning. Few are capable of this magnanimity, the great majority being satisfied if they tell only the truth, without in all instances telling the whole truth.

One of the most striking instances of the influence of a sense of duty over his conduct, was in his declining to take the office of Professor of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania, which he believed, and I have no doubt upon the best grounds, to have been at one time within his reach. I have said that he was naturally fond of distinction; and this was a post to which he believed himself competent, and in which he would probably have attained much credit and a wide-spread popularity. An ordinary person, in his situation, would have seized upon it with avidity. But he regulated his conduct by a higher standard than that of personal gratification. He believed that a station in the University would bring what might

be considered his duty towards the Institution into frequent conflict with his peculiar religious sentiments and habits. He was unwilling to expose himself to temptations, likely to loosen his hold upon those principles which he conceived to be the anchor of his safety. To his intimate friends, who urged him to avail himself of this opportunity, he was wont to answer, in his naive and cheerful but impressive manner, by pointing to his breast, and observing that he wished to have all comfortable there; that no worldly advantages would be any compensation for the loss of that heart-felt satisfaction which attended obedience to the intimations of his inward monitor. This was, indeed, the great rule of his life. Believing most fully in that fundamental Quaker doctrine that the Divine Spirit communicates directly with men, that from this source is the "true light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world," and that consequently every individual has a sure counsellor in his own breast, which, if consulted in the right spirit, will never fail or mislead him, he was in the constant habit of looking inward for intimations of duty, and of submitting to them implicitly, however opposed to his apparent worldly interests. Now, whatever opinion may be entertained of these intimations, whether we agree with the Friends in considering them as of supernatural origin, or believe them, as most men do, to proceed from the natural workings of the mind,

under the influence of education, habit, reason, and conscience, it is nevertheless the fact that, in any case of morals, an individual, brought up in a civilized and Christian country, will seldom go far astray, who uniformly consults them with a single eye to the truth. Dr. Parrish believed that he found peace and safety in this rule of action; and no merely worldly temptation was strong enough to remove him from any position which he had taken in conformity with it. The same motives which induced him to forego the opportunity of obtaining a professorship in the University, caused him also to decline offers, and resist solicitations afterwards made to him to join other incorporated medical schools. "My bark," he used to say, "was made for quiet waters."

Firmness and courage were also among the moral qualities which distinguished Dr. Parrish. With all his kindness of heart and disposition to please, though no man was less tenacious of opinion for opinion's sake, and none more disposed to yield in trifles to the convenience or even caprice of others, yet in all affairs which involved a point of principle he was immoveable, and did not hesitate to do or to avow what he believed to be his duty, whatever personal injury or odium might accrue.

Thus morally courageous, he was not wanting in that less noble attribute which leads to contempt of danger. During an intimate intercourse of many

years, I do not remember to have seen him, in any one instance, exhibit the least evidence of bodily fear. In pestilence he was among the foremost at the post of danger. During the prevalence of yellow fever, I have seen him by day and by night, without the expectation of pecuniary recompense, and at a period of his professional life when he had nothing further to wish for on the score of reputation, enter the deserted precincts of infection, and expose himself to the most imminent danger, in attendance upon individuals who had been seized by the disease while lingering behind the fleeing population. He delighted when young in the excitement and hazard of the fireman's duty, and, even at a comparatively late period of life, had not entirely relinquished the habit of exposing his person in great conflagrations. I have known him, in times of public tumult, to venture into the midst of the excited multitude, and fearlessly oppose his personal influence to their mad purposes. On the bed of sickness and death, with a clear knowledge of his danger, he was quite composed, and never exhibited any of those fearful apprehensions which sometimes beset the closing scenes even of those best prepared to die. Such, indeed, was his natural temperament, that danger attended with the opportunity for exertion, seemed to have charms for him; and I have heard him more than once say, not in a boastful spirit, but quite naturally, as if merely giving expres-

sion to the feelings of the moment, that, were he not opposed on principle to all wars and fightings, he should take a stern delight, in a cause which he could approve, in leading the forlorn hope of an assault.

In relation to his intellectual faculties, Dr. Parrish was characterized by quick perception, an excellent memory for facts, and an unusual correctness of judgment. Little that he had the opportunity of hearing or seeing escaped his observation, and what he had once stored up in his mind was ever afterwards at his command. He had, therefore, a fund of anecdote and material for illustration, which rendered his conversation highly interesting as well as instructive, and gave him great advantages as a lecturer. He had little imagination, and was without the taste and perhaps the ability for abstract and speculative reasoning, which too often busies itself in constructing edifices of conclusion upon slender premises, and wastes in vain attempts to establish general truths the time which would be better spent in collecting facts. But he was gifted, in an extraordinary degree, with that practical faculty which turns to useful account whatever comes within its reach; which, by a sort of intuition, distinguishes a truth amidst the rubbish by which it is concealed, and out of a labyrinth of conflicting means selects that which most surely leads to the end in view. His was, indeed, eminently a practical mind, looking always to acts rather than to

opinions, and disposed to measure the value of any system or project by its probable bearing on the condition of society or individuals, not by its mere beauty, or the ingenuity displayed in its invention.

But, while thus marked with striking traits, he was not without the graces also of character. His amiableness of temper, candour and openness of heart, liberality of sentiment, charity for the failings of others, warmth and constancy in friendship, and love of order and punctuality, were often beautifully illustrated in his daily intercourse, and contributed to give him the charm of manner which rendered his presence everywhere so acceptable. The real politeness for which Dr. Parrish was remarkable, was in no respect the result of cultivation, but flowed directly from the fountain of his own kindly feelings. It was the genuine coinage of nature, which art may counterfeit, but seldom equals. With a self-possession resulting from his utter want of pretension and the perfect simplicity of his character, and entirely free from that sort of diffidence of manner which is the frequent result of pride, he was never awkward in speech or movement, and in all the intercourse of life exhibited the deportment of a true gentleman.

To the present audience, it is scarcely necessary to recall the personal characteristics of Dr. Parrish;—his fine, open, benevolent countenance, with small but expressive eyes, beautiful teeth, and generally regular

features; his form rather below the medium height and slightly stooping, but broad, full, well made, and vigorous; his gait rapid and energetic, as if in the eager pursuit of some important object; his garb, that of the sect to which he belonged, and simple according to its strictest requisitions.

Having thus endeavoured to portray our late friend as a man, we are next to consider him in his professional capacity as a physician and a medical teacher. In the narrative of his progress in life already given, allusion has been so often incidentally made to those traits of his character which distinguished him as a practitioner of medicine, that comparatively little need be said on the present occasion. That little may be included under the several heads of his relations, first, to the disease, secondly, to the patient, and thirdly, to his fellow members of the profession.

He was peculiarly skilful in diagnosis. His acuteness of observation led him often to notice symptoms or circumstances, which, though apparently trifling, and therefore liable to be overlooked by a careless eye, were yet of the highest importance towards the formation of a correct notion of the disease. He was at the same time careful not to decide rashly in doubtful cases, and was especially cautious in surgical affections, in which a hasty opinion might lead unnecessarily to serious operations. An instance of his acumen in diagnosis, familiar to most of his pupils, deserves

perhaps to be mentioned here. He was invited to be present at an operation for the removal of a cancerous tumour of the breast. The surgeons had met, and the operator was about to proceed, when Dr. Parrish, having made an examination, and been induced to suspect the existence of a deep seated scrofulous abscess, mentioned privately his views of the case, and suggested that, previously to the use of the knife, a lancet should be thrust deeply into the tumour. This was assented to as at all events a safe expedient, though rather in compliance with the wish of the Doctor than from a conviction of its propriety. A puncture was accordingly made, and a copious flow of pus followed the withdrawal of the instrument. The patient was thus saved a painful operation, and the surgeon the no less painful mortification which would have ensued, had he attempted the extirpation of the tumour, and found himself in the midst of an abscess.

The extensive experience of Dr. Parrish and his tenacious memory, enabled him frequently to pronounce promptly in cases considered doubtful, by recalling others of a similar nature which had occurred to him; and this process of inference by comparison was so rapid, that his conclusions often appeared, to himself perhaps as well as to others, the result rather of intuition than of an intellectual operation.

A few years since, there appeared in the lower parts of our city numerous cases of a disease, which

bore some resemblance to the common nervous or typhoid fever, but was more violent, and presented pathological characters which seemed to mark it as a quite different affection. Dr. Parrish was consulted, and at once pronounced the disease to be the same typhus fever of which he had seen so much when it prevailed here epidemically in 1812, and subsequent years, but which had for a long time almost wholly disappeared. The result of the treatment in these cases confirmed the correctness of the diagnosis. Active stimulation was found to be requisite; while bleeding, which is often very useful in the ordinary typhoid fever, was seldom admissible.

His correct judgment also was eminently serviceable to him in the investigation of disease. Though few circumstances connected with any case escaped his observation, yet so far from being embarrassed by the multitude of different and often seemingly conflicting materials for an opinion, he had the talent of throwing out of view all but the important points, and was thus enabled to come to a satisfactory and usually just conclusion, when others of equal or superior knowledge, but less accuracy of judgment, were left in uncertainty, or led into error.

The same good sense caused him to look always to the practical and useful in his estimate of disease. Though willing to explain facts in the manner which appeared to him most consonant with reason, he was

utterly averse to mere speculation, and never allowed a theory, however plausible, to exert any influence over his decisions, when extended beyond the limits of rigid observation into the fields of mere conjecture. To the medical doctrines which arose in rapid succession during his life, and which, in some instances, exerted a wide-spread and not innoxious influence over the profession, he opposed a steady and active resistance, believing it to be his duty to protect not only himself, but others also, so far as lay in his power, from their fascinations. It was not that he disliked them merely as novelties. On the contrary, no one seized on newly announced facts or well attested observations more eagerly than himself; and ancient hypotheses had no more favour in his eyes than those of recent origin. But he was convinced that no general theory of disease can be true, because we are not yet in possession of the materials out of which to form such a theory, and it has not been given to man to penetrate by conjecture the councils of creative wisdom; and he believed that false hypotheses are productive of the most dangerous practical results. He was in favour, therefore, of patiently making and recording observations, and only then attempting to deduce general truths, when the facts accumulated were sufficient for the purpose, without the necessity of a resort to supposition or conjecture. Happily, he lived to see this system of prosecuting medical inquiry become the fashion

among us; and I have no doubt that, so far as concerns this place, the result may in some measure be ascribed to his efforts.

The peculiar intellectual qualities which aided him in the study of disease were no less useful to him in therapeutics, in which also he exhibited the same preference of experience over the suggestions of abstract reasoning, or the inventions of imagination. Though by no means distrustful of the powers of medicine, he yet had great confidence in the native resources of the system, and was much in the habit of relying on them in his course of treatment. He watched carefully for the indications which nature might present, and not unfrequently answered these indications, though opposed to general opinion, or even to his own preconceived views. He attached great importance to the constitutional peculiarities of individuals, which he studied with care, and always consulted in his choice of remedies. The ordinary means by which life and health are sustained, such as pure air, cool drinks, wholesome food, a regulated temperature, exercise, &c., frequently became in his hands powerful therapeutical agents, especially in cases which seemed to have originated in the want of them. Yet when medicines appeared to be demanded, he was prompt and efficient in their use; and was often very happy in the selection of those best adapted to the case, being greatly aided in his choice by a peculiar

sagacity, which suggested new modifications or contrivances to meet unforeseen emergencies, or unusual states of disease.

To the practice of surgery he was admirably adapted by these same qualities, and, in addition, by those essential physical requisites, a good eye, a steady hand, and general firmness of nerve. I never but once saw his hand tremble under any circumstances of health or sickness. He used to have some pride in this important surgical qualification; and I have frequently seen him, even when exhausted by severe and long continued illness, hold out his hand in the position in which it was wont to grasp the knife, without the slightest discoverable motion other than that produced by the arterial pulsations. He used to say that, when he should perceive his hand to shake under these circumstances, he should consider it as an evidence that he was near his end; and surely enough, in his last illness, a very short time before his death, while he was almost unconsciously repeating the same trial of his strength of nerve, I observed for the first time that failure which he considered so ominous.

Towards the sick the deportment of Dr. Parrish was most happy. The cheering smile with which he accosted his patients, his soothing kindness, his encouraging and confident manner while there was still ground for hope, and his affectionate sympathy

and consolation when hope was over, remain indelibly impressed on the grateful recollections of thousands in this city. In dangerous cases, he was candid whenever there was not reason to fear that by being so he might greatly aggravate the danger; and he never undertook a hazardous operation, without having previously made the patient acquainted with his condition, and obtained his consent with a full knowledge of the possible consequences. When thus called upon to be the herald of danger, the kindness of his heart pointed out the mode of proceeding least likely to occasion unnecessary pain; and his well known character as a pious man enabled him to mingle very effectively the consolations of religion with the gloomy intelligence which he had to announce. He was frequently consulted by his patients in the capacity of a friend and counsellor as well as physician, and thus became the confidant of many private concerns, which he always considered as a sacred trust committed to his honour. He was scrupulously careful never to violate professional confidence. Nothing ever passed his lips which could affect the reputation of those who had placed themselves in his hands; and when there was something in a case interesting in a professional point of view, which, however the patient might wish to be concealed, he was most cautious, in relating the fact for the benefit of his pupils, not to mention the name, and even to avoid

every allusion which could by any chance connect the event with the individual. When such a connexion was unavoidable he was entirely silent; for he considered that no good which might possibly accrue to society from the publication or promulgation in any way of any particular case, could justify a physician in violating even an implied trust. Upon his students he was always exceedingly solicitous to inculcate the great importance of professional secrecy, not only as essential to the respect of the world, but as in the highest degree binding upon their honour and conscience.

I have already spoken of his liberality towards patients of slender means, and the delicacy with which his favours were conferred. This conduct arose from feeling and principle, and not from mere carelessness in relation to pecuniary concerns; for in all his business transactions he was scrupulously exact, and, in relation to his fees for medical services, considered it a duty which he owed as much to his patients and the profession as to himself, to present his accounts regularly once a year, whenever peculiar circumstances did not require some relaxation of his general rule. He always, however, considered these accounts in the light of honorary claims, and not only never exacted payment, but declined it altogether when the patient expressed any doubt of its justice, or any great unwillingness to discharge it. I recollect being pre-

sent, on one occasion, when a countryman of some wealth and no less covetousness called at his house to settle a bill for medical attendance. He was probably not accustomed to the rate of charging common in the city, and demanded some abatement from the account on the score of its extravagance. The Doctor in reply told him that, if such were his views, he should decline receiving anything; whereupon the gentleman, commending his liberality, took up his hat and left the house, apparently very well contented.

Perhaps in no respect did Dr. Parrish appear to greater advantage than in his relations with his medical brethren. It was one of his maxims that no physician could have a satisfactory professional standing, who disregarded the good-will and good opinion of his fellow practitioners. He was, therefore, mindful of their rights on all occasions, never allowing any chance of immediate or prospective advantage to himself to interfere with their just interests, and very often going out of his way to protect their reputation, and to repair any injury they may have suffered in the estimation of their patients. He held in abhorrence that meanness of spirit which, for a little apparent profit, would insinuate evil of a brother, or even assent by silence to a mistaken estimate of his worth. He was strictly obedient to the ethical code which wise and good physicians have established for the regulation of their intercourse with their patients and with

one another, and which, however liable to reproach from selfishness or inexperience, is yet indispensable to the maintenance of harmony in our profession, and consequently to efficiency for the public good. No medical man could long remain in a hostile attitude towards Dr. Parrish. I do sincerely believe that he never purposely gave cause of offence to a fellow practitioner; and any temporary ill-will which may have originated in misconception soon melted away before his amenity of manner and obvious goodness of heart. He never resented an injury, real or supposed, and not unfrequently repaid unkindness with benefits.

From his regard for his fellow practitioners it may be inferred that he had pleasure in meeting them in consultation. He had none of the jealousy which fears a rival in every person with whom we may be associated in attendance, nor of the overweening and arrogant self-esteem which owns no fallibility of judgment. It was his custom, whenever he supposed a patient or his friends might desire additional aid, or when the case was one of a doubtful or embarrassing nature, to offer a consultation; and when a suggestion to this effect came from the patient himself, he always promptly gave his assent, however inferior in age and standing might be his proposed associate.

Another trait which favourably distinguished his intercourse with the profession was an extraordinary punctuality in the fulfilment of his engagements. In

consultations he very rarely failed to meet at the time appointed; and so jealous was he of his character in this respect, that it was a habit with him, which most of his medical friends must remember, to present his watch when he was second in entering the house, in order to prove that he was not after his time.

Towards the younger members of the profession, he conducted himself in a manner calculated to win their affection as well as respect. So far from feeling the least touch of jealousy at their success, or exhibiting any of that overbearing temper which sometimes attends an increase in years and honours, he was always gratified with an opportunity of promoting their interests, and regulated his intercourse with them upon the same principles as with his equals in age. He did not consider the tie between himself and his pupils broken, when they had established themselves as practitioners. On the contrary, he felt towards them as towards younger brothers, rejoiced in their professional advancement, aided them by his advice and recommendation, and took every opportunity of causing the superabundance of his own cup to flow over into theirs. It was a fine trait in his character, and one which has endeared him to many now present, that when any of his young friends, through accident or other cause, acquired a footing in families which he had been in the habit of attending, instead of feeling unkindly or endeavouring in any way to

interfere with their interests, he seemed to enjoy their success, and took pains to strengthen the impressions in their favour, through the influence which his long professional intercourse with the families naturally gave him. I know that there are many who will heartily join me in this tribute of acknowledgment to the memory of our deceased benefactor and friend. But I feel that on my own part the tribute is inadequate. When I call to mind his virtues, his many amiable qualities, and his numberless acts of personal kindness; how he took me by the hand when young, admitted me into his intimate confidence, attended me in illness, counseled and aided me when counsel and aid were needed, and throughout life gave me his warmest sympathy, my breast is filled with emotions which exceed the powers of language, and I cannot but feel, that my efforts to exhibit him to others with all his admirable characteristics as they present themselves before me, are as futile as would be an attempt, without the talents of a painter, to transfer to the canvas the vivid image of his form and features impressed upon my memory.

A few words in relation to the peculiarities of Dr. Parrish as a teacher, will close this imperfect representation of his medical character. Without having cultivated either rhetoric or oratory as an art, he was a fluent and by no means inaccurate speaker, and, when under the impulse of high principle or strong

feeling, was often truly eloquent, attracting the fixed attention of the audience, and carrying their whole sympathies along with him. It appeared as if his own beautiful feelings were personified in the speaker, and that the hearers were listening to the very voice of benevolence, of charity, of compassion for the weak and suffering, of indignation against oppression, or of whatever other emotion was at the time predominant within him. On such occasions, as he was under no restraint from the rules of art, and unembarrassed by the consciousness of any evil in his own thoughts, he surrendered himself freely to the current of his emotions, which, as they were themselves pure, threw up to the surface nothing which required concealment.

This pouring out unreservedly of all that he thought or felt, constituted the main charm also of his medical lectures. His instructions did not consist of laboured treatises upon disease, presenting in a regular and compact arrangement all that was known upon the subject. They were rather vivid pictures of his experience, in which the pupil was enabled to see the very events as they passed, and to see them too with the trained eyes of their preceptor. They were made to enter into the very case, to share in the reflections, hopes, and fears of the speaker, and thus to take an almost personal interest in the progress and termination of the disease. His lessons became in fact to his pupils a sort of experience of their own; and I think it

probable that many of us, who have been long in practice, would find some difficulty in discriminating between the recollection of what we have ourselves seen, and the strong impressions left upon our minds by the representations of our teacher.

Through his lectures there ran a vein of cheerful good-nature, enlivened with frequent touches of humour, which added much to their attractiveness. By his very mode of accosting his pupils upon entering the lecture room, he contrived to place them upon a footing of friendly familiarity, which disposed them to attend to his instructions out of personal regard for the speaker as well as from a desire to learn. "Well boys," he would say, preparatory to some kindly greeting or some friendly inquiry, and thus by a few words expressive of his own good feeling, attuned their minds into harmony with his own, and was enabled to carry their hearts as well as their attention along with him in his subsequent address.

But the feeling of familiar companionship with which he inspired his pupils by his deportment towards them on all occasions, never passed the limits of perfect propriety. It was so mingled with reverence for his purity of heart and elevation of character, that nothing but the spirit of evil could have suggested anything likely to prove offensive to him; and the guard which the student was thus induced to keep over any wrong propensity in the midst of the

otherwise unreserved intercourse with his preceptor, had the tendency to modify his own character favourably, and to make him in reality what he wished to appear.

In his lectures Dr. Parrish was accustomed to introduce numerous illustrative cases, and endeavoured to strengthen the effect of mere description by the exhibition of pathological specimens, which, in the long course of his practice, he had been enabled to procure in great numbers. Indeed, his collection of diseased bones was probably unequalled in any cabinet, public or private, in this country. He endeavoured also constantly to direct the attention of his pupils to the practical observation of disease, and to the attainment of familiarity with all the instruments and means of cure. With the latter view, he recommended them to spend some months in the shop of an apothecary in the earlier period of their studies, and to seize every opportunity of performing those minor operations, and exercising those manipulations, a perfect facility in which is so important to the practitioner, and especially to the surgeon. He urged upon them, moreover, a regular attendance at the hospitals, and, in his own private practice, sought occasions to enable them to see disease, to assist at operations, and in various ways to initiate themselves into the practical duties for which they were preparing.

On the whole, few men have, I believe, exhibited a

stronger interest in their pupils, or laboured more assiduously to promote their welfare; and no one, certainly within my own observation, has gained a more ample return of love and respect.

Having thus given an historical sketch of Dr. Parrish up to the period of his last illness, and endeavoured to delineate his character as a man, a physician, and a medical teacher, it now only remains for us to consider him in the closing scene of his life. This is the touchstone which tries the value of the past, and distinguishes what was sterling worth from the false glitter of profession, and the deceptions of self-esteem. He only can be said to have been truly happy in life whose end is happy. To the friends of Dr. Parrish it is a source of the purest satisfaction, that he passed successfully through this last and severest trial, and that the close of his career was in harmony with its whole course. He was attacked in the summer of 1839 by the disease which ultimately proved fatal, but continued to attend to his various avocations, though somewhat irregularly, till about the beginning of the present year, when he confined himself to his house on account of a severe bronchial affection superadded to his former complaint. From this he partially recovered so as to be able to ride out occasionally, and even visit patients; but he suddenly became worse about the close of February, and, taking to his bed, continued to sink gradually for nearly three weeks,

and died on the 18th of March, in the sixty-first year of his age. Though somewhat lethargic towards the conclusion of the disease, he was capable, when roused, of thinking with perfect clearness, and of fully appreciating his condition, till a day or two before death. In the midst of much bodily distress, and great derangement of his nervous system, he preserved unimpaired those amiable traits of character by which he was distinguished in health, frequently expressing a grateful sense of the kindness of those who administered to him, and carefully avoiding any expression which could wound their feelings. With the full conviction of the fatal character of his disease, and with the near prospect of its termination, he was perfectly calm and self-possessed, made all the requisite arrangements in his affairs, spoke to his family as a tender husband and father solicitous for their present and eternal welfare, might be expected to speak, and uniformly expressed his reliance upon the goodness and mercy of Providence, and his hope of a happy hereafter. Under the feeling of his utter bodily prostration, he used to say to his physicians that he was like a log of wood on the Delaware, floating about at the discretion of the winds and tides. At one of their latest visits, when hearing and sight were failing, and the power of articulation was almost gone, he repeated this expressive figure, and could but just be heard to say in addition, "but even the log on the Delaware

has its care-taker." Thus, the reliance upon a superintending Providence, which was one of the governing principles of his life, did not fail him in death; and, if love for his fellow men, unceasing beneficence, and a reference in almost all that he said and did to the will of his Maker, may be considered as the indications of a spirit prepared for immortality, his friends may confidently indulge the belief, that in dying he has but exchanged the uncertain gratifications of this world for the sure happiness of that to come.

The almost unprecedented array of his fellow citizens of all classes who attended his remains to the grave, the general expression of regret for his loss, and the measures taken by the various bodies to which he belonged, to procure some public commemoration of his worth and services, are evidences of a general esteem and affection such as seldom fall to the lot of individuals unconnected with public life. Perhaps no one was personally known more extensively in the city, or had connected himself by a greater variety of beneficent service with every ramification of society. It is true that no marble has been erected over his remains, and that the very spot where they are laid will soon be undistinguishable to every eye save that of conjugal or of filial love; yet the remembrance which he has left behind him, the only monument which the rules of his unostentatious sect allow, is far more precious than the praises of carved stone, which gold

may purchase or power command. Should this humble tribute to his worth add in the least to the brightness or the duration of that remembrance, the author will feel the sweet reward of having paid a double debt, to gratitude and to truth.

